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COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES
OF OUTER SPACE

PARTICIPATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN INTERNATIONAL SPACE YEAR

Note by the Secretariat

Addendum

United Nations guidebook on International Space Year

1. The document entitled "Participation of the United Nations in International Space Year" (A/AC.105/445 and Add.1 and 2), which was reviewed by the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and by the Committee itself at their 1990 sessions, has been recast in a new publication entitled "Guide to the Participation of the United Nations in the International Space Year (ISY) - 1992".

General Assembly resolution in support of United Nations participation in International Space Year

2. In its resolution 45/72, adopted on 11 December 1990, the General Assembly urged Member States and international organizations to consider supporting the efforts of the United Nations in connection with International Space Year, 1992.

Note verbale of the Secretary-General on voluntary contributions for activities undertaken by the United Nations as part of International Space Year

3. On 14 December 1990, the United Nations circulated copies of the above-mentioned United Nations ISY guidebook along with the note verbale of the Secretary-General on the participation of the United Nations in International Space Year to all Member States. In his note verbale, the Secretary-General reminded Member States that "in endorsing the participation of the United Nations in the International Space Year, the General Assembly directed that the activities to be undertaken by the United Nations, as part of its contribution to ISY, should be implemented 'through voluntary contributions by Member States and without any impact on the United Nations regular budget or the existing programme of work of

the Programme' (A/44/20, para. 117)." The Secretary-General also appealed to Member States for their full support and co-operation so that the United Nations could successfully carry out its planned ISY activities for the benefit of all Member States.

Current status of planned activities to be undertaken by the United Nations as part of International Space Year

4. The programmes for the training courses/workshops/conferences detailed in the United Nations ISY guidebook are being defined and organizational arrangements are being developed with all the co-sponsors (paras. 9, 12, 17, 21 and 35).* The guidelines for the essay contest have been finalized (para. 38) and detailed information on the regional centres for space science and technology education has been communicated to all Member States (paras. 18-20). Steps already taken on the establishment of the centres are described in paragraphs 35 to 44 of the report of the United Nations Expert on Space Applications to the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee (A/AC.105/478). Plans already initiated in respect of the aforementioned training courses, workshops and conferences are also contained in paragraphs 33 (d) and (e), 34 (a), (c), (d) and (e), 50 and 51 of document A/AC.105/478.

5. Arrangements are in progress to organize, in co-operation with the International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), a workshop on "Bridging the Information Gap in Space Science and Technology" at United Nations Headquarters in 1992. The aims of the workshop are to review the need for the collection and distribution of a wide variety of literature on space science and technology, particularly for the benefit of institutions in the developing countries, and to seek the support of publishing houses and libraries for such a programme (paras. 23-25). The workshop is also identified in paragraph 34 (h) of document A/AC.105/478 as a planned activity of the Programme on Space Applications for 1992.

6. The United Nations is co-operating with the Museum of Natural Science in Houston, Texas, to develop a manual that could be used for the live observation of artificial space objects in 1992. The scheme for this observation consists of the selection of sufficiently bright satellites and the computation of predictions of their visibility. When completed, these computations will be circulated to participating planetariums, including those in the developing countries (paras. 30 and 31). Arrangements are also in progress to publish a booklet on science centres, or "universariums" (para. 28). The booklet is to contain information on the roles and impacts of planetariums on societies; their benefits, design and management; the facilities within such planetariums; the types of educational programmes organized by them; and the range of annual costs of running such facilities.

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* Paragraph numbers in parentheses correspond to the paragraph numbers in the guidebook.

7. A number of potential sites for space data collection are being identified in parts of Africa covered by the ground receiving stations of the European Space Agency (ESA) at Maspalomas Gran Canaria, and Fucino, Italy, with a view to carrying out specific applications projects with the data to be collected by those stations. ESA is supporting the project financially. At present, nine countries have indicated their interest in the project; UNESCO has also offered to make available for the project its computer-based learning packages using remote-sensing data in marine science (para. 15; see also A/AC.105/478, para. 14).

8. A telecast is being planned in co-operation with the International Telecommunications Satellite Organization (INTELSAT) and the International Organization of Space Communications (INTERSPUTNIK), with a view to documenting and explaining to the global community the essential and far-reaching role of space technology in the solution of global environmental problems as well as the role of the United Nations in the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space. A project proposal is currently being finalized on the telecast, which is to be shown during the 1992 session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. Segments of the telecast will be taken from the video series also currently under preparation. Topics covered by the video series include "The United Nations and the Space Age" and "Space and the Developing Regions of the World" (para. 34).

9. A major activity being undertaken in 1992 by the United Nations is the exhibit entitled "The Home Planet" (para. 36). The exhibit will be open for public viewing at United Nations Headquarters from June to September 1992.

10. The Home Planet exhibition will be based on the best images of the Earth recorded by Earth-observing satellites of space-faring nations, as well as photographs and videos taken from the unique vantage point of outer space by astronauts and cosmonauts. The exhibition is intended to be a powerful and evocative "tour" of the Earth from space, consistent with the theme of ISY-1992: "Mission to Planet Earth", expanding viewers' awareness of the interrelated elements of our home planet and inspiring them to appreciate more fully the bond between the Earth and its inhabitants.

11. The physical arrangement of the exhibition should orient visitors towards the dynamic relationship among the planet's components - the geosphere, hydrosphere, biosphere, atmosphere and cryosphere - and reinforce the underlying concept of the planet as a single system. It should also demonstrate how applications of space technologies are helping humanity to manage the resources of the Earth and its environment and are contributing to the understanding as well as the safeguarding of the global environment. The exhibition is intended to replicate for its viewers the powerful sense of beauty, fragility, integrity and interconnectedness as perceived by astronauts and cosmonauts when they first viewed their home planet from outer space.

12. The exhibition should be a balanced and an integrated one, and should include the initial as well as the latest images of the Earth acquired from space by Earth orbiting satellites and manned space voyages, together with products of interplanetary missions in the last three decades, up until 1992. Elements of Earth observation programmes that are still in the developmental stage are also likely to be reflected in the exhibition.

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13. A synoptic view of the status of UN-ISY activities as of 18 December 1990 is presented in the annex to the present document.

Implementation of United Nations ISY activities

14. The continued implementation of the above activities will depend on the amount of voluntary contributions received.

Annex

PARTICIPATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN INTERNATIONAL SPACE YEAR - 1992
(Status of planned activities as of 19 December 1990)

United Nations ISY guidebook activity No.	Para.	Activity title	Co-sponsors and participating institutions with the United Nations	Location and date	Status
1.	9	International training course	United States/WMO/FAO	South Dakota, 9 September-4 October 1991	Programme finalized; nominations to be requested by 15 January 1991
2.	10	International conference	United States/WMO/FAO	Washington, May 1992	Programme being defined; nominations to be requested by 1 October 1991
3.	11	Workshop on disasters	China/ESCAP/UNDRO/UNESCO/WMO	Beijing, 16-20 September 1991	Programme being finalized; nominations to be requested by 15 January 1991
4.	13	Acquisition and transfer of remote-sensing data	USSR/UNESCO/WMO	from Moscow to developing countries, 1992	Communications already established with the USSR agency Priroda for defining procedure for data transfer
5.	14	Marine and coastal environment	France/UNDP/IOMAC	Indian Ocean, 1990-1991	Project definition and preparation completed
6.	14 15	Acquisition and transfer of remote-sensing data	ESA/UNESCO/WMO/FAO	African countries covered by ESA stations, 1991-1992	Assisting Member States to prepare project formulation; questionnaire already circulated
7.	16	Mission to Planet Earth booklet	UNESCO	New York, 1992	Outline completed; invitation to contributors under preparation
8.	17	Co-operation with NGOs			
		a) IAF Congress	IAF	Montreal, 3-5 October 1991	Agreed workshop theme; programme under preparation
		b) ISPRS Congress	ISPRS/WMO	Washington, 1992	Discussions in progress; programme being defined

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United Nations ISY guidebook activity No.	Para.	Activity title	Co-sponsors and participating institutions with the United Nations	Location and date	Status
		c) Space Congress	COSPAR/IAF	Washington, 1992	Discussions in progress; programme being defined
9.	18	Centre for Space Science and Technology Education	Member States/WMO	Developing countries; from 1991	United Nations resolution adopted; project document completed and circulated to Member States (SAP/90/001-004); funding campaign in progress
10.	21	Communications seminar	USSR	Moscow, 1992	Consultations in progress with USSR; programme and other logistics associated with seminar being defined
11.	22 24	United Nations Workshop on Bridging the Information Gap	UN/UNESCO/WMO/ICTP	New York, 1992	Soliciting donors for this activity
12.	26	Space education booklet		New York, 1992	Outline completed; invitation to contributors under preparation
13.	27	Other ISY activities	SAFISY	Various, 1990-1992	Participation in SAFISY meetings in order to strengthen co-operation on global activities
14.	28	Universariums		New York and others, from June 1990	Outline of booklet on universariums being finalized
16.	32	Special videos	WMO	New York and others, 1991-1992	Proposal already developed; themes of videos selected; schedule of videos now being finalized
17.	33	Monthly lectures		New York, 1990-1992	Initiated in December 1990 with a lecture on "Space Communications"; lectures for 1991-1992 being planned

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United Nations ISY guidebook activity No.	Para.	Activity title	Co-sponsors and participating institutions with the United Nations	Location and date	Status
18.	34	Telecast	UN/INTELSAT/ INTERSPUTNIK	New York and other global locations, June 1992	Programme of telecast defined; telecast scheduled for June 1992
19.	36	Exhibition	Member States	New York, June-September 1992	Exhibit proposal already approved by United Nations Exhibit Committee; Kevin Kelly & Associates currently working with the departments of Political and Security Council Affairs and Public Information to develop exhibit elements
20.	37	Space Science Education Meeting	USSR	Moscow, July 1991	Exhibit on "United Nations Space Activities" to be presented at meeting under preparation
21.	38	National essay contest	Member States	New York	Guidelines for essay contest already defined; invitations to Member States ready for dispatch